

BOOK ALERT

May/June 2007



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ARCHITECTURE & URBAN PLANNING

1. Allen, Edward.
Architectural detailing : function, constructability, aesthetics / Edward Allen and Patrick Rand ; drawings by Edward Allen, Joseph Iano and Patrick Rand. 2nd ed. John Willey & Sons, ©2007. 321 p. REF 729 ALL

As the name suggests, *Architectural Detailing* looks into and provides an insight into the designing of architectural details. Well organized and beautifully illustrated, this book describes the principles on which good architectural details are designed. It explains why details should be designed in particular ways. Further, it discusses in depth the considerations that should be kept in mind during the design process. The principles are laid down in many small but concise sections. These include controlling water leakage, accommodating movements and providing structural support. Written in a straightforward, approachable fashion, the book would appeal to students and practicing architects. -- (For use only in the Library) ND

THE ARTS

2. The education of a comics artist : visual narrative in cartoons, graphic novels, and beyond / edited by Michael Dooley and Steven Heller. Allworth Press, ©2005. 265 p. 741.5 EDU

This is an inspirational anthology on teaching, thinking, and talking about comics in the classroom and beyond. The book features essays and interviews of more than sixty professionals, educators, and critics. This book provides a detailed outlook of the art, business, and history of comics art. It attempts to place comics art in perspective, and to examine it through the voices of many leading exemplars, as a holistic endeavor that involves many formats and numerous visual and verbal arts. The book features a wide variety of genres, from editorial cartoons, political comics, and comic strips to graphic novels, superhero sagas, and alternative comics. Related fields such as animation, design, and illustration are also discussed. The book will be handy for aspiring, creative comic artists. It is also geared for illustrators, painters, designers, filmmakers, even writers who might embrace and apply the inherent characteristics of comic artistry in their own distinct art forms. -- C/M

3. The photography book. Phaidon, 2005. 512 p. REF 779 PHO

This latest massive reference book from Phaidon is an alphabetically arranged collection of 500 inspiring, moving and beautiful images of famous events and people, sensational landscapes, historic moments, sports, wildlife and fashion by eminent photographers from around the world. Each of these exceptional photographs accompanies a concise caption packed with information about the photographer and his or her work. This brings life to the context of the art of photography and its influence in our life. The compilation elaborates the twists and turns of this art in its long journey. The collection is organized in alphabetical order by photographer. It also includes glossaries of technical terms and movements, as well as an international directory of museums and galleries where photography is regularly on display. -- (For use only in the Library) C

BUSINESS & MANAGEMENT

4. Antion, Tom.
The ultimate guide to electronic marketing for small business : low-cost/high-return tools and techniques that really work / Tom Antion. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., ©2005. 294 p. 658.872 ANT

Practical in its approach, this book stresses the importance of having an effective web site, capable of generating traffic and persuading the purchase of products. Further, it advocates automating payments and exploiting blog and RSS technology. Antion believes that there is immense potential for small businesses to effectively use the Internet. This book provides tools and tactics for small and aspiring entrepreneurs to market their businesses around the world. The book is full of realistic ideas on reaching new customers and increasing. -- C/CH/ND

5. Boyatzis, Richard E.
Resonant Leadership : renewing yourself and connecting with others through mindfulness, hope, and compassion / Richard Boyatzis and Annie McKee. Harvard Business School Press, ©2005. 286 p. 303.34 BOY

Boyatzis and McKee explain how managers and executives can employ mindfulness, hope and compassion to create and maintain exceptional

business success. "Effective teams and powerful, positive organizational cultures do not happen by accident," they write; they are created by "resonant" leaders who employ emotional intelligence to motivate and nurture their employees. Yet resonance can be exhausting to maintain and even outstanding leaders can turn dissonant under the pressure of chronic business stress. When that happens, they say, "rest and relaxation" aren't enough to restore a leader's emotional resilience. Drawing upon cognitive psychology, Buddhist philosophy and their own research, the authors propose a series of more effective remedies including cultivating "openness, curiosity and awareness" about oneself and others; visualizing a positive, realistic dream; and working to understand and improve the situations of others. Boyatzis and McKee argue convincingly that such practices can "favorably impact the bottom line while enabling leaders to sustain their effectiveness for longer periods of time." At a time when business leaders are under scrutiny for moral lapses on financial and social fronts, the exercises and arguments in this book can help executives learn to improve their interests by strengthening their ethics. -- CH/ND
(Adapted from *Publishers Weekly*, ©2005)

6. Capturing customer equity : moving from products to customers / David Bejou and Gopalkrishnan R. Iyer, editors. Best Business Books, ©2006. 98 p. 658.8343 CAP

In this thought provoking book, the editors and contributing authors share their expertise and experience in a new area of marketing research and practice – customer equity management. Customer equity is widely being recognized as an important new concept in marketing. Relationships with customers could be a major source of a firm's intangible assets. This book aims to help academics chart out future research directions. It also promotes marketers in applying recently developed frameworks in creating and managing customer equity in domestic and international markets. -- C/CH/M/ND

7. Desouza, Kelvin C.
Engaged knowledge management : engagement with new realities / Kelvin C. Desouza and Yukika Awazu. Palgrave, ©2005. 240 p. 658.4038 DES

With the changing competitive environment and in light of contemporary best practices, current knowledge management efforts in organizations need to be refocused. The authors elaborate on how companies

can make their information management programs more realistic in the current business environment and in their work. Among the topics discussed are: knowledge management control, knowledge chiefs, distributed knowledge management, strategic alliances, customer knowledge management, and constructing knowledge markets, among others. The book would prove a good reference for the knowledge management novice as well as expert. -- CH/ND

8. Fishman, Charles.
The Wal-Mart effect : how the world's most powerful company really works—and how it's transforming the American Economy / Charles Fishman. Penguin Press, ©2006. 294 p. 381.149 FIS

Fishman shops at Wal-Mart and has obvious affection for its price-cutting, hard-nosed ethos. He also understands that the story of Wal-Mart is really the story of the transformation of the American economy over the past 20 years. He carefully presents the consumer benefits of Wal-Mart's staggering growth and places Wal-Mart in the larger context of globalization and the rise of mega-corporations. But he also presents the case against Wal-Mart in arresting detail, and his carefully balanced approach only makes the downside of Wal-Mart's market dominance more vivid. Through interviews with former Wal-Mart insiders and current suppliers, Fishman puts readers inside the company's penny-pinching mindset and shows how Wal-Mart's mania to reduce prices has driven suppliers into bankruptcy and sent factory jobs overseas. He surveys the research on Wal-Mart's effects on local retailers, details the environmental impact of its farm-raised salmon and exposes the abuse of workers in a supplier's Bangladesh factory. In Fishman's view, the "Wal-Mart effect" is double-edged: consumers benefit from lower prices, even if they don't shop at Wal-Mart, but Wal-Mart has the power of life and death over its suppliers. Wal-Mart, he suggests, is too big to be subjected to the market forces or traditional rules. Finally, Fishman sees Wal-Mart as neither good nor evil, but simply a fact of modern life that can barely be comprehended, let alone controlled. -- C/CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Publishers Weekly, ©2006*)

COMMUNICATION

9. Boczkowski, Pablo J.
Digitizing the news : innovation in online newspapers / Pablo J. Boczkowski. MIT, 2005. 243 p. 070.4 BOC

In *Digitizing the News*, Boczkowski traces the development of non-print publishing by American daily newspapers and how the new media environment emerged by combining existing media structures and practices with new technology. His multidisciplinary perspective elaborates on the connections among the technical, editorial, and work facets of new media. He traces daily newspapers' early consumer-oriented non-print publishing initiatives, from videotext (1980s) to the rise of the World Wide Web (mid-1990s). The second half of the 1990s saw the shift from the simple reproduction of the print edition to multimedia-based interactive news. Finally, Boczkowski reveals how innovation in online newspapers became an ongoing process leading to divergent paths of content creation. -- M

10. Chan-Olmsted, Sylvia M.
Competitive strategy for media firms : strategic and brand management in changing media markets / Sylvia M. Chan-Olmsted. Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, ©2006. 242 p. 384.54 CHA

Chan-Olmsted explores a relatively new area of investigation in media economics and management in the context of the changing digital media marketplace. She addresses the strategic-competition aspect of the electronic media industries and the way they respond to the arrival of new technologies. She also takes a look at the applicability of various business concepts in analyzing media products. The book suggests that media firms should strategize in response to the arrival of new media. With a timely, realistic, and integrated approach to the media industry, the title covers all electronic media industries, including both the content providers as well as the distribution systems. The title would be of special interest to researchers, practitioners, and graduate students in media economics and management. -- C/M

11. Crandall, Robert W.
Competition and chaos : U.S. telecommunications since the 1996
Telecom Act / Robert W. Crandall. Brookings Institution Press,
©2005. 212 p. 384 CRA

This book on U.S. telecommunications policy over the past decade is a clear analysis of the developments in the field of telecommunications in the United States since the passage of the 1996 Telecommunication Act by Congress. Crandall analyses the impact of the act on economic welfare in the United States. He also examines the way telecommunications providers have been affected. Crandall argues that the Federal Communication Commission and other bodies have over-regulated telecommunications, leading to confusion and uncertainty. -- M/ND

12. Meyer, Philip.
The vanishing newspaper : saving journalism in the information age /
Philip Meyer. University of Missouri Press, ©2004. 269 p.
071.3 MEY

The newspaper industry has been constantly losing readers for the last three decades. While news professionals often hold themselves responsible, the real culprit is technology and its competing demands on the public's time. Traditionally, newspapers targeted the mass audience, which of late has become scattered as a result of new information technologies. The Internet is the latest in the series. By isolating and describing the factors that made journalism work as a business in the past, Meyer provides a business model for preserving and stabilizing the social responsibility functions of the press in a way that works with the changing technologies of the present and future. Meyer terms it the "influence model," which is based on the premise that the main product of a newspaper is not news or information, but societal influence. He backs his argument with empirical evidence, supporting key points with statistical assessments of the quality and influence of the journalist's product, as well as its effects on business success. Accessible to a wide audience, teachers and students of journalism and business will find Meyer's research of particular interest. -- C/CH/M/ND

13. Stein, Laura Lynn.
Speech rights in America : the First Amendment, democracy, and the media / Laura Stein. University of Illinois Press, ©2006. 166 p.
302.23 STE

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees freedom of speech. However, legal interpretation of the same often privileges the interests of media owners over those of the broad citizenry. There are concerns that such a situation undermines the potential for democratic communication. In *Speech Rights in America*, Laura Stein offers a forceful and intellectually comprehensive argument advocating a positive First Amendment interpretation to protect free speech. The book offers a good understanding of free expression in the United States and explores the failure of current understandings of speech rights in the U.S. -- C

ECONOMICS

14. Florida, Richard L.
The flight of the creative class : the new global competition for talent / Richard Florida. HarperBusiness, ©2005. 326 p. 331.12 FLO

Following up on *The Rise of the Creative Class (2002)*, Florida argues that if America continues to make it harder for some of the world's most talented students and workers to go there, they'll go to other countries eager to tap into their creative capabilities – as will American citizens fed up with what they view as an increasingly repressive environment. He argues that the loss of even a few geniuses can have tremendous impact, adding that the "overblown" economic threat posed by large nations such as China and India obscures all the little blows inflicted upon the U.S. by Canada, Scandinavia, New Zealand and other countries with more open political climates. Florida lays his case out well and devotes a significant portion of this polemical analysis to defending his earlier book's argument regarding "technology, talent, and tolerance" (i.e. that together, they generate economic clout, so the U.S. should be more progressive on gay rights and government spending). He does so because that book contains what he sees as the way out of the dilemma – a new American society that can "tap the full creative capabilities of every human being." Florida remains an astute observer of what makes economic communities tick and he's sure to generate just as much public debate on this new twist on brain drain. This well-written book emphasizes that the key to economic growth is innovation, which in turn depends on the proper

encouragement of the human talent. -- CH/M (Adapted from *Publishers Weekly*, ©2005)

15. Forman, John.
The essentials of trading : from the basics to building a winning strategy / John Forman. J. Wiley & Sons, ©2006. 300 p. 332.64 FOR

Trading has become far more challenging today than is normally understood. With nearly twenty years of trading experience, author John Forman illustrates the complete picture of the trading world. Aimed at beginners making their initial move into this ever-changing world, the book begins with the basics of placing a trade and understanding the workings of the market. It also elaborates on the development of trading plans, implementation, risk management, and the building of trading systems. The book includes exercises and examples, which bring the topics to life. The book offers an up-to-date, insightful perspective for traders of all backgrounds. -- ND

16. Fraser, Steve.
Every man a speculator : a history of Wall Street in American life / Steve Fraser. HarperCollins, ©2005. 721 p. 332.642 FRA

A writer, historian, and book editor, Fraser presents a monumental cultural history of speculation in the United States as played out on the stages of Wall Street. Informing this rich chronicle are authentic newspaper reports, magazine pieces, letters, movies, novels, plays, transcripts, and other eyewitness accounts dating from Dutch Colonial times to the present. Fraser's painstaking research reveals much about the major players of Wall Street, from Cornelius Vanderbilt to Michael Milken while shedding light on minor characters (e.g., Hetty Green, also known as, "The Witch of Wall Street") and historical events like the 1929 stock market crash and the Great Depression. Given how speculative the early Colonists were, the invention of Wall Street was certainly no accident; the author suggests its growth paralleled that of America itself with a similar "manifest destiny." This scholarly and entertaining encyclopedic history documents an important part of U.S. business history. The prose has been elegantly documented with a keen eye on the historical details, carrying the reader through the many sagas that Fraser entertainingly recounts. -- C/CH/M/ND (Adapted from *Library Journal*, ©2005)

EDUCATION

17. The community college baccalaureate : emerging trends and policy issues / [edited by] Deborah L. Floyd, Michael L. Skolnik and Kenneth P. Walker. Stylus Publishing, ©2005. 228 p. 378.1 COM

Most community colleges have open-access admissions policies, are affordable, and are located within easy driving distance in the regions they serve, but do not offer four-year programs. However, in recent years, some community colleges have broken away from their traditional mission of conferring only associate degrees and occupational credentials. They have begun to offer baccalaureate programs, particularly in such high-need areas as teacher education and nursing. In these 13 essays, contributors examine the history behind the community college baccalaureate, its incidence in the United States and Canada, the collaborative approach some have taken with other institutions, and the particulars of applied and workforce baccalaureates. They also offer a series of case studies, a cautionary essay, a call for an agenda for policy and research, and a description of the resources and information needed to further the cause of the community college baccalaureate. -- C
(Adapted from *Book News, Inc.*, ©2005)

18. Karabel, Jerome.
The chosen : the hidden history of admission and exclusion at Harvard, Yale and Princeton / Jerome Karabel. Houghton Mifflin, ©2005. 711 p. 378.1 KAR

Karabel has produced a powerful study of the origins of current practices of selective admission at the Big Three (Harvard, Yale and Princeton) and the ways in which definitions of merit, and attendant admissions policies evolved during the 20th century. Access to higher education is becoming increasingly competitive especially in light of the connection between higher education and economic success later in life. Recent studies of college admissions, including Jacques Steinberg's *The Gatekeepers*, and the more academic Douglas S. Massey and others' *The Source of the River*, have focused on the role that social origin continues to play in admission decisions at America's most prestigious colleges. With merit-based admissions becoming the slogan for the Big Three, their definitions of merit were simply adjusted to assure that certain social classes continued to have an edge in admissions decisions, even while educational leaders touted their evolved admissions policies, which did not overtly identify

social origins or wealth as factors. -- C/CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Library Journal*, ©2005)

19. Laufgraben, Jodi Levine.
Sustaining and improving learning communities / Jodi Levine Laufgraben and Nancy S. Shapiro. Jossey-Bass, ©2004. 186 p.
378.1 LAU

In this follow-up to their book on *Creating Learning Communities*, Laufgraben and Shapiro continue their exploration of the concept of learning communities, an innovation in undergraduate curricular instruction that allows students to deepen their college experience. They offer teachers and campus leaders insight on campus culture, planning and curriculum assessment, faculty development, and sustaining living-learning programs. -- C/CH (*Adapted from Book News, Inc.*, ©2004)

20. Watson, Yolanda L.
Daring to educate : the legacy of the early Spelman College presidents ; foreword by Johnnetta B. Cole ; epilogue by Beverly Daniel Tatum / Yolanda L. Watson and Sheila T. Gregory. Stylus, 2005. 208 p. 378 WAT

Spelman College, the oldest historically Black women's college, has a strong academic foundation and legacy. The first four presidents of Spelman, including its two co-founders, happened to be White women and they have the credit of ensuring the early development of the college. They strongly felt the need for college-level education of Black women. The book chronicles the vision of each of these women presidents and the way they responded to changing social forces. People interested in women's studies, Black history and the history of higher education in general would greatly appreciate this work. -- CH

ENVIRONMENT

21. Dunaway, Finis.
Natural visions : the power of images in American environmental reform / Finis Dunaway. University of Chicago Press, ©2005. 246 p.
333.72 DUN

Throughout the twentieth century, photographers and filmmakers created unforgettable images of American natural treasures like Walden Pond, the Grand Canyon, Yosemite National Park, and many others. Dunaway traces their powerful use of the camera in the history of the American environmental movement, explaining why American reformers were attracted to the camera, how they hoped photographs would bring people closer to the natural world, and how the movement's photographers tried to create "visual monuments to vanishing places." Detailing the changes in image-making, he begins with landscape photographer Herbert Gleason and then devotes the majority of the book to New Deal documentary films and their makers, including Pare Lorentz and Robert Flaherty. The final chapters probe the influence of environmental coffee-table books as first published by the Sierra Club. Analyses of humankind's place in the world of still and motion pictures unveil religious ideals as well as archetypal suppositions of the romantic sublime and the unsullied frontier myth. The text is embellished with photographs by Ansel Adams and Eliot Porter and stills from New Deal documentaries. The title will appeal to a wide range of readers interested in American cultural history, the visual arts, and environmentalism. -- ND (*Adapted from Library Journal*, ©2005)

22. Green living : the E magazine handbook for living lightly on the earth / by the editors of E/the environmental magazine. Plume, ©2005. 320 p. 640 GRE

This remarkably well-researched, comprehensive work, compiled by the editors of E/The Environmental Magazine, grew out of a regular feature from the publication on how consumers can lessen their impact on the environment. From energy efficient water heaters to environmental banking and ecotourism, the volume explains how to live in a more environmentally-friendly way. Chapters cover food choices, natural health care, personal hygiene products, natural-fiber clothing, pet products, socially responsible investing, home infrastructure, products for babies and children, organic gardening, energy, travel, and recycling. Each chapter concludes with a listing

of further resources. Most of the ideas advocated are easy to implement and are accompanied by clear explanations of the ecological and economic benefits of "being green." -- CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Book News, Inc., ©2005*)

23. Hellmund, Paul Cawood.
Designing greenways : sustainable landscapes for nature and people / Paul Cawood Hellmund and Daniel Somers Smith. Island Press, ©2006. 270 p. REF 711 HEL

Designing Greenways is a compendium of best practices elaborating how greenways function and add value to ecosystems and human communities alike. It's a practical guide for planners, designers, and conservationists for implementing those solutions in real world contexts. *Designing greenways* is a key to protecting landscapes, allowing wildlife to move freely, and finding appropriate ways to bring people into nature. Illustrated with examples from ecology, conservation biology, aquatic ecology, and recreation design, the book is bound to draw attention of greenway designers. -- (For use only in the Library) C/M

24. McCloskey, J. Michael.
In the thick of it : my life in the Sierra Club / J. Michael McCloskey. Island Press, ©2005. 399 p. 333.72 MCC

McCloskey started with the Sierra Club from his law school graduation in 1961, when he was hired as the Sierra Club's first field representative for the Northwest. For the next nearly forty years, he rose to guide the oldest and most powerful environmental organization in the world. He helped lobby for the original Wilderness Act of 1964, successfully lobbied for new national parks and wilderness areas, and built the Club from a membership of 70,000 to over half a million. In the process, he confronted a variety of politicians on a variety of issues (including entertaining James Watt) and pushed over 100 environmental laws through Congress. McCloskey, through this book, offers not only invaluable insight into the past, but also inspiration to carry into the future. His biography offers an inspiring history of environmental activism as well as an insider's account of the Sierra Club. -- CH/M (*Adapted from Book News, Inc., ©2006*)

25. Measuring landscapes : a planner's handbook / André Botequilha Leitão ... [et al.]. Island Press, ©2006. 245 p. REF 333.95 MEA

This practical handbook attempts to bridge the gap between scientists who study landscapes and the planners and conservationists who must then decide how best to preserve and build environmentally-sound habitats. It aims to promote awareness, understanding, and application of landscape metrics by planners, and thus facilitate interdisciplinary communication and collaboration. It intends to help planners acquaint themselves with landscape metrics and help promote more ecologically sustainable planning solutions. -- (For use only in the Library) C/M

HISTORY & CIVILIZATION

26. Bennett, William J.
America : the last best hope. v. 1. from the age of discovery to a world at war, 1492-1914 / William J. Bennett. Nelson Current, ©2006. 573 p. 973 BEN

Bennett has taken on the gargantuan task of chronicling America's history in the hopes, he says, of helping Americans see past today's cynicism and find pride and enjoyment in their country once again. He strives to present America's history in a balanced and reasoned manner, and in this he pretty much succeeds in that. While presenting a cogent examination of American history, he also pays attention to the good in American history and also acknowledges the bad. Basing his work not on original research but on some of the best secondary sources available as well as notable period writings, Bennett does a good job of presenting historical events in a fair and even light. One of the work's strengths is Bennett's inclusion of considerable information on the personal characteristics of the men and women he covers, as well as more unusual events, such as Thomas Jefferson and the gift of the "Mammoth Cheese." Such details make history come alive for general readers and students. Bennett does not break new ground or analyze why history unfolded as it did, but he does present American history in an optimistic and engaging manner. -- C/CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Library Journal, ©2006*)

27. Egan, Timothy.
The worst hard time : the untold story of those who survived the great American dust bowl / Timothy Egan. Houghton Mifflin Co., ©2006.
340 p. 978.032 EGA

Egan, in *The Worst Hard Time*, does a great job of storytelling and getting into the American's lives and telling their stories. Egan tells an extraordinary tale in this emotional account of how America's great, grassy plains turned to dust, and how the ferocious plains winds stirred up an endless series of "black blizzards" that were like a biblical plague: "Dust clouds boiled up, ten thousand feet or more in the sky, and rolled like moving mountains" in what became known as the Dust Bowl. But the plague was man-made, as Egan shows: the plains weren't suited to farming, and plowing up the grass to plant wheat, along with a confluence of economic disaster resulted in an ecological and human catastrophe that Egan details with stunning specificity. He grounds his tale in portraits of the people who settled the plains: hardy Americans and immigrants desperate for a piece of land to call their own and lured by the lies of promoters who said the ground was arable. Egan's interviews with survivors produce tales of courage and suffering: Hazel Lucas, for instance, dared to give birth in the midst of the blight only to see her baby die of "dust pneumonia" when her lungs clogged with the airborne dirt. With characters that seem to have sprung from a novel, this well-written book would prove a good read for anyone interested in American history. -- C/CH/M/ND
(Adapted from *Publishers Weekly*, ©2005)

28. Franklin, John Hope.
Mirror to America : the autobiography of John Hope Franklin / John Hope Franklin. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, ©2005. 401 p.
973.0496073 FRA

True to its title, *Mirror to America* simultaneously tells the compelling life story of Franklin and details nearly nine decades of American history. The author speaks candidly and thoroughly about his life experiences. He grew up in Oklahoma during segregation and went on to earn a degree from Fisk University and a Ph.D. in history from Harvard, despite many horrifying and outrageous instances of discrimination. He became the first black historian to assume a full professorship at a white institution – Brooklyn College. Throughout his life's work, to define and disseminate African American history, Franklin maintained a deep love and respect for his family. Awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995 by President Clinton,

Franklin has earned a place in American history because of his passion for that very subject. -- CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Library Journal*, ©2006)

29. Nash, Gary B.
The unknown American Revolution : the unruly birth of democracy and the struggle to create America / Gary B. Nash. Viking, ©2005. 512 p. 973.3 NAS

In *The Unknown American Revolution*, Nash examines the American Revolution from the perspective of the ordinary people involved, e.g., women, laborers, farmers, Native Americans, and slaves, making the case that those who actually fought and won the Revolution deserve the credit for it. As Nash reveals, the clean, linear history of the Revolution taught at school simply is not true; it was actually a very messy, chaotic, and fragmented affair. The narrative focuses on the latter half of the 18th century, examining the revolutionary activities of common people, from the New Jersey farmers asserting their property rights in the 1740s to the plight of African Americans after the war. He debunks many myths of the Revolution, such as that of the citizen soldier (most soldiers were in fact poor and landless immigrants) and unearths many lesser-known facts (e.g., in 1776, New Jersey's constitution implicitly gave women the right to vote-until the legislature narrowed suffrage in 1807). The book is well written and is thought-provoking. -- M/ND (*Adapted from Library Journal*, ©2005)

30. Patterson, James T.
Restless giant : the United States from Watergate to Bush v. Gore / James T. Patterson. Oxford University Press, ©2005. 448 p. 973.92 PAT

James T. Patterson seamlessly melds the complexities of politics, economics, society and culture into a vibrant and accessible account of late twentieth century America. Patterson's analyses of standard historical fare, interwoven with nuanced observations on diverse issues such as family life, the personal computer revolution, the media and gay activism give this book its singular dynamism. Picking up where his last volume, *Grand Expectations: The United States, 1945-1974*, left off, Patterson opens with Richard Nixon's resignation and plunges into a detailed discussion of racial problems. By the late 1990s, media-exaggerated accounts of the culture wars, had abated. Pop culture icons from Bill Cosby to Madonna and Jerry Seinfeld also populate these pages, but, predictably, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton tower over all.

Patterson credits Reagan with facilitating the end of the Cold War. Although international conflicts distracted Clinton from the domestic policy-making he preferred, a sexual tryst led to his impeachment, threatening the "transcendent position in United States history" he sought. The author also touches on terrorism, beginning with the Iranian hostage crisis and culminating in the American intelligence community's knowledge that, by late 1998, radical Muslim terrorists "were considering... hijacking commercial airliners and crashing them into buildings." With insightful analyses and engaging prose, *Restless Giant* captures this period of American history in an incredible way illuminating the road that the United States traveled from the dismal days of the mid-1970s through the hotly contested election of 2000. -- C/CH/M/ND (Adapted from *Publishers Weekly*, ©2005)

31. Zinn, Howard.
Voices of a people's history of the United States / Howard Zinn and Anthony Amove. Seven Stories Press, ©2004. 665 p. 973 ZIN

This anthology contains hundreds of testimonies by people who are often under-represented or misrepresented in American history books: women, Native Americans, workers, and people of color. Ranging from letters and poems of less than a page in length to entire speeches and essays, these selections express the power of civil disobedience and dissent. The volume is organized chronologically around themes such as slavery, the early women's movement, McCarthyism, the Vietnam Era, and the War on Terror. A wonderful overview of the fight for liberty and justice through American culture and political movements, the book is a must for anyone interested in American history. -- C/CH (Adapted from *Book News, Inc.*, ©2004)

INFORMATION SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

32. Salomon, David.
Transformations and projections in computer graphics / David Salomon. Springer, ©2006. 288 p. 006.6 SAL

This book is specifically for those interested in computer graphics and would like to delve deep into it. It provides a thorough background of graphics, transformation and projections, now a part of everyone's lives via feature films, advertisements in the media, the screens of PDAs, mobile phones etc. The book is aimed at mathematically savvy readers, who are also

familiar with computers and computer graphics and are looking for a presentation of the transformations and projections used in computer graphics. The mathematical background forms the basics of linear algebra, mostly vectors, vector operations, and matrices. The key ideas are introduced and examined with the help of illustrations, figures, and photographs. The book also contains exercises with solutions for better understanding of the concepts. -- ND

33. Wasson, Haidee.
Museum movies : the museum of modern art and the birth of art cinema / Haidee Wasson. University of California Press, ©2005.
314 p. 026.79143 WAS

Museum Movies explores the intellectual roots of an American film archive – the Film Library of the Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), New York – and its efforts to preserve and exhibit films. It is the first systematic study of the museum's relationship to cinema – a neglected aspect of MOMA's history. The Film Library was established in 1935 as the first North American film archive and museum. Instead of operating as a simple conventional repository of films, it circulated these films nationally and internationally establishing a connection between modern art museum and classrooms, public libraries, women's clubs, unions, movie theaters etc. Establishment of the Film Library could be seen as an endorsement of the idea that cinema should be taken seriously as an art form in progressive circles. The works of the Film Library also led to a paradigm shift in the way many older films were interpreted as they gained historical significance. This title is a full-scale exploration of the rise of film as art and is a timely intervention in historical research. -- M

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

34. Coleman, Kim.
A history of chemical warfare / Kim Coleman. Palgrave Macmillan,
©2005. 198 p. 358.34 COL

This book explores the historical perspective of chemical warfare. Dr. Coleman analyses the development and deployment of chemical weapons from 700 BC to the present day. The First World War being the most significant experience of the chemical threat, she looks at it in greater detail.

The Second World War and post-war conflicts are also evaluated. The author also assesses various protocols attempting to control the proliferation and use of chemical weapons. The book concludes with an evaluation of the threat, both real and hypothetical, from a chemical warfare attack today and rationally assesses the capability of terrorist groups around the world as to what extent they are capable of making and using such weapons. -- M

35. Democratic development & political terrorism : the global perspective / edited by William Crotty. Northeastern University Press, ©2005. 561 p. 303.625 DEM

The 9/11 attacks and the Afghanistan and Iraq wars have posed far-reaching consequences of dealing with political terrorism on an international scale. The central concern addressed in this collection is how best to control terrorist activities and successfully democratize societies in the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Western and Eastern Europe, and Latin and Central America. In this timely collection, experts, mostly American political scientists, look at the root causes of terrorism, the regional and international impact of terrorists, the democratic transitions under way and the problems associated with these, how the West, especially the United States, has chosen to confront the problems, and other aspects. -- C (*Adapted from Book News, Inc., ©2005*)

36. Hewitt, Christopher.
Political violence and terrorism in modern America : a chronology / Christopher Hewitt. Praeger Security International, ©2005. 199 p. REF 303.62 HEW

Christopher Hewitt presents a chronology of terrorist events in the United States and Puerto Rico. Over 3000 incidents of bombings, shootings, kidnappings, and robberies carried out for political or social objectives between 1954 and 2004 are listed in this volume. The FBI's definition of terrorism has been used in the construction of this data set. Each entry includes the date, place, types of incident (such as bombing, shooting or vandalism), the groups held responsible and a brief description of the event. The volume has a brilliant introduction that provides an excellent explanation of how crimes are defined as terrorist rather than sexually or racially motivated. -- (For use only in the Library) CH/M

LAW

37. Greenhouse, Linda.
Becoming Justice Blackmun : Harry Blackmun's Supreme Court Journey / Linda Greenhouse. Times Books : H. Holt and Co., ©2005.
268 p. 347.732634 BLA

Linda Greenhouse, a Pulitzer Prize-winning Supreme Court journalist and commentator for the New York Times, offers an exceptionally readable biography of Justice Harry Blackmun, from his childhood to his service on the Supreme Court. Greenhouse was the first print reporter to have access to the personal and official papers of Justice Blackmun, who died in 1990. Drawing upon this primary-source material, she portrays the evolution of Blackmun's judicial philosophy. The author creates a revealing portrait of both the man himself and the inner workings of the Supreme Court, including his fractious relationship with Chief Justice Warren Burger. Central to the narrative is Blackmun's involvement in *Roe v. Wade*, subsequent abortion litigation, and capital punishment litigation. This book is an absorbing look at the personal and official concern of a person, who helped to shape American law and society. -- C/CH/M/ND (Adapted from *Library Journal*, ©2005)

38. Stohr, Greg.
A black and white case : how affirmative action survived its greatest legal challenge / Greg Stohr. Bloomberg Press, 2004. 333 p.
342.73087 STO

Affirmative action policies are government or institutional efforts to end forms of discrimination against minorities; and challenges to, or acceptance of, those policies are critical social issues in American society. In 2003, the U.S. Supreme Court decided two University of Michigan cases – *Gratz v. Bollinger* and *Grutter v. Bollinger* – concerning racial preferences in their admission policies for undergraduate and law school. Stohr emphasizes the strategies of opposing litigating parties in developing their arguments. Special attention is paid to the judges' conflicts at the U.S. Court of Appeals and how the parties built coalitions to obtain friend-of-court briefs at the U.S. Supreme Court in these socially and politically charged cases. Stohr shows key elements in the justices' assessment of the value of racial diversity on college campuses, but he does not explore strategic activities among the justices in either case; nor does he examine how the U.S. Supreme

Court is central to deciding these emotional issues in the American political system. -- C (*Adapted from Library Journal*, ©2004)

39. Wells, Donald A.
The United Nations : states vs international laws / Donald A. Wells.
Algora Publishing, ©2005. 193 p. 341.23 WEL

This title investigates the structure, achievements and weaknesses of the United Nations. It looks at its power explaining what it can do and what it cannot. Writing for those not generally well informed about the United Nations, Wells combines a defense of the organization with a primer on its functions, structures, and activities. He explains how the U.N. was set up according to a U.S. plan that purposely limited its powers so that it could not challenge the will of the five permanent powers of the Security Council and how its lacking the "power of the purse" has limited its effectiveness in many areas. He also outlines the human quest for international laws, especially in the perspective of war. He pays particular attention to the establishment of the U.N. International Criminal Courts and the role of the International Labor Organization in defending labor rights, concluding that the U.N. has achieved much of worth in spite of its limitations. -- CH (*Adapted from Book News, Inc.*, ©2005)

LITERATURE & LANGUAGE

40. Delany, Samuel R.
About writing : seven essays, four letters, and five interview / Samuel R. Delany. Wesleyan University Press, ©2005. 419 p. 813.54 DEL

An indispensable companion for serious writers, this is not just another how-to book for marketing fiction. Instead, it is a compilation of finely nuanced essays, letters, and interviews devoted to the craft of writing. Award-winning novelist Delany offers readers a description of the art of writing fiction, a demonstration of how fiction fits into today's world, and a discussion of the writer's reputation. He offers insights from his more than 30 years of writing and teaching experience, and hence his book may prove useful for writing teachers. Readers will find many answers in this book to the mysteries of getting words down on a page. -- C/CH/M/ND

41. Edgerton, Clyde.
Solo : my adventures in the air / Clyde Edgerton. Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2006. 276 p. 629.13 EDG

Edgerton has written a most intriguing memoir of his love affair with flying and how he fulfilled it as a combat pilot in Vietnam. When Edgerton was four, his mother took him to the local airport to look at planes; before he was out of high school, he was determined to become a jet fighter pilot. That passion stayed with him through the University of North Carolina as a ROTC (Reserve Officers' Training Corps) cadet, to getting his pilot's license in his senior year (his mother then became his first passenger), and into air force pilot training in summer 1966. His recollections include detailed accounts of flying lessons and the exhilaration that came from mastering and flying increasingly complex planes. The peak of his flying career, during which he won a Distinguished Flying Cross, was a stint of combat reconnaissance over the Ho Chi Minh Trail in 1970-71 – a situation that often seemed unreal to a young man who loved flying. The book has been written in a vivid but laconic style that could captivate Vietnam and aviation mavens as well as general readers. -- C/CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Booklist*, ©2006)

42. The Facts on File companion to 20th-century American poetry / edited by Burt Kimmelman. Checkmark Books, ©2005. 572 p. REF 811.509 FAC

This A-Z compendium of 500-plus signed entries presents an eclectic approach to the study of twentieth-century American poetry, reflecting the wide variety of poetic styles, schools, and movements of the century. Kimmelman draws upon the expertise of 244 academic contributors from all parts of the United States and abroad. Analysis by contributors from academic institutions in Australia, Canada, Germany, Guatemala, Israel, Singapore, Spain, Taiwan, and the U.K. lends unique cross-cultural perspectives. Each entry has a bibliography. Entries offer extensive, authoritative interpretations of well-known poets like Maya Angelou, Rita Dove, Langston Hughes etc. It also incorporates entries for lesser-known writers like the late modernist African-American poet Melvin Tolson. This single volume work offers an encyclopedic treatment of a broad topic. -- (For use only in the Library) C/CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Booklist*, ©2005)

43. Snodgrass, Mary Ellen.
August Wilson : a literary companion / Mary Ellen Snodgrass.
McFarland & Co., ©2004. 266 p. 812.54 WIL

Award-winning African-American playwright August Wilson has created a cultural chronicle of black America through his great works that provoke examination of the despair generated by poverty and racism. It further explores African-American heritage and experiences over the course of the twentieth century. *August Wilson: A Literary Companion* is an ideal introduction of Wilson and provides the basic data and analysis of characters, dates events, allusions, staging strategies, and themes from his work. It opens with an annotated chronology of Wilson's life and works, followed by his family tree. Each of the 166 encyclopedic entries provides insights from a variety of sources. These also include suggestion for further reading. In addition, the title also has useful appendices that provide useful information about Wilson's life, his characters etc.. -- C/ND

PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION

44. Cochran, Pamela.
Evangelical feminism : a history / Pamela D.H. Cochran. New York
University Press, ©2005. 245 p. 230 COC

Cochran, in *Evangelical Feminism*, presents the first complete history of the American evangelical feminist movement. Her detailed examination surpasses broad overviews like Christel Manning's *God Gave Us the Right*. Starting in the 1970s, Cochran observes, evangelicals were split over how to interpret the Bible correctly. Traditionalists asserted the long-standing dictum of scriptural infallibility. However, younger evangelicals were pushing for a reexamination of Scripture using modern techniques. These progressive evangelicals were also striving to reconsider what the Bible had to say about modern social issues, including women's rights. This climate of reexamination set the stage for the evangelical feminist movement. From here, Cochran chronicles evangelical feminism to today. Included are key players like Nancy Hardesty and Virginia Mollenkott, the movement's internal split over lesbianism, and evangelical feminism's relation to present-day traditionalists. An admirable first attempt at examining a significant issue facing Protestant Christianity, this book is bound to draw attention of those interested in religious studies, Christianity, or women's studies. -- C/M (*Adapted from Library Journal*, ©2005)

POLITICAL SCIENCE

45. American conservatism : an encyclopedia / edited by Bruce Frohnen, Jeremy Beer, and Jeffrey O. Nelson. ISI Books, ©2006. 979 p. REF 320.52 AME

The conservative movement, formed since World War II, was most closely associated with anticommunism. While on the one hand it is a political entity for some, it is a philosophical construct for the others. But overall, its complexities and differing internal opinions are likely not to be understood by the average American. *American Conservatism: An Encyclopedia* seems intended to define and illuminate the variety of thought and ideas within the conservative movement rather than establish an absolute definition of what conservatism is. The entries are of substantial importance to the shaping of postwar American conservatism. A large percentage of the articles are biographical, treating individuals ranging from Edmund Burke and Adam Smith to William F. Buckley Jr., Newt Gingrich, and Garry Wills. Other entries are political or philosophical in nature. Abortion, Affirmative action, Diversity, Individualism, and Protectionism are presented from the conservative point of view. In terms of format, this is a standard A-Z one-volume encyclopedia. Most articles are followed by a bibliography and see also references. The list of contributors draws heavily from college and university faculties. The encyclopedia would appeal to those interested in political philosophy. -- (For use only in the Library) C (Adapted from Booklist, ©2006)

46. Boyd, Richard.
Uncivil society : the perils of pluralism and the making of modern liberalism / Richard Boyd. Lexington Books, ©2004. 351 p. 320.513 BOY

This title is an intellectual history of associational life in classical liberal political theory. The animosity of classical liberalism towards groups and associations, termed by Boyd "the perils of pluralism," was a fundamental factor in the shaping of the institutional and intellectual form of Anglo-American liberalism, he argues. He also draws attention to the links to the sociological understandings of the dangerous and irrational properties of groups that he believes are inherent in the political philosophies of such figures as Hobbes, Hume, Locke, Smith, and Madison. -- CH (*Adapted from Book News, Inc., ©2004*)

47. Communicating politics : engaging the public in democratic life / edited by Mitchell S. McKinney ... [et al.]. Peter Lang, ©2005. 315 p. 320.973 COM

This book explores the questions associated with the civic life participation of the citizens in the American democracy. Communications scholars McKinney, Kaid, Bystrom, and Carlin present 22 papers that explore questions of civic engagement in the United States from the perspective of their field. Introductory essays provide a general portrait of civic engagement at the present time and succeeding sections focus in turn on the way politics is communicated through the media; different types of candidate-controlled communications; and messages developed by and for diverse constituencies, including racial minorities and women. -- M/ND (*Adapted from Book News, Inc., ©2005*)

48. The covenant with black America / introduction by Tavis Smiley. Third World Press, ©2006. 254 p. 323.1196 CON

This rich collection of essays is both a plea and a response to the self-assessed critical circumstances of black America today. The essays included provide a directive for African-Americans, explaining how individuals and households can make changes that will immediately improve their circumstances in areas ranging from health and education to crime reduction and financial well-being. Tavis Smiley provides the introduction, touching on the issues he explores as host and interviewer on public television and radio; Cornel West and Haki Madhubuti also provide commentary, tying together the common theme of planning how to address the circumstances faced by black Americans. Marian Wright Edelman offers the statement of purpose introducing the 10 covenants, pledging individual effort in the areas of health care, public education, criminal justice, community-centered policing, affordable neighborhoods, democracy, agriculture, economics, environmental justice, and technology. Among the contributors are Marc H. Morial, Angela Glover Blackwell, and Wade Henderson. Each section offers facts on racial disparities in the U.S.; practical suggestions on what individuals, communities, and the government can do to rectify problems; and other helpful resources. Although specifically aimed at problems and issues facing black America, this work has appeal for all readers interested in social issues that plague the United States as a whole. -- C/CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Booklist, ©2006*)

49. Democracy and excellence : concord or conflict? / edited by Joseph Romance and Neal Riemer ; foreword by William B. Rogers. Praeger, ©2005. 166 p. 321.8 DEM

Reimer has been a leading proponent of reintroducing and revivifying the central role of democratic theory in American political discourse. In this collection of essays, some of the top names in this field address the tension between democracy and excellence. These articles contributors work through Reimer's ideas, including how one can define and achieve excellence in an egalitarian society. Their topics include reconciling democracy and excellence, Thucydides on democracy and chaos, equality and excellence in American religion, Mark Twain's political thought, ordinary virtue, the competent public, Tocqueville and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and the dangerous allure of excellence. As the United States works to promote democracy throughout the world, it is time to consider once again why democracy is a good thing. At the same time, Romance and Riemer remind us always to think about and ponder the ways democracy can fail us. Contributions from distinguished scholars of political science, history, and religion provide supporting evidence in a multi-disciplinary approach. -- ND (Adapted from *Book News, Inc.*, ©2005)

50. Eilperin, Juliet.
Fight club politics : how partisanship is poisoning the House of Representatives / Juliet Eilperin. Rowman & Littlefield, ©2006. 168 p. 328.73072 EIL

Beginning with Newt Gingrich's nomination as House Speaker in 1994, warlike tactics, manipulation and strategic takeovers have replaced compromise within the House of Representatives, consequently polarizing America's two major parties and leaving the views of its ordinary citizens underrepresented. Eilperin, in *Fight Club Politics*, portrays Gingrich as an intimidating, conflicted and sometimes disturbing figure who consolidated Republican power early in his tenure, strong-arming committee chairmen and even soliciting political advice from friend Joe Paterno, the Penn State football coach. To maintain control, the Republican leadership uses loopholes in the system, such as introducing bills so late that representatives don't have time to review them before voting. And the Democrats are shown responding in kind, sticking with their own and ranting bitterly about the Republican House majority. Eilperin's concludes with a look toward what's necessary to restore balance. This lucidly written and thoroughly researched book would be appreciated by those looking for an insider's view of America's corridors of power. -- C (Adapted from *Publishers Weekly*, ©2006)

51. Kennedy, Edward Moore.
America back on track / Edward M. Kennedy. Viking, ©2006. 210 p.
320.6 KEN

According to Senator Kennedy, the United States has departed too far from its ideals in too many ways and that the time has come to put America back on track. To that end, he defines seven issues that reflect this departure and discusses how he believes these ideals have been distorted or forgotten in recent congressional and/or Bush administration legislation and policy. He also prescribes solutions for returning U.S. to the values he believes it should stand for. Among the challenges Kennedy identifies are restoring constitutional democracy and national security through a more balanced, bipartisan dialog between the executive and legislative branches. He articulates inequities in the healthcare delivery systems and provides extensive examples for improving access to healthcare for disadvantaged as well as middle-class citizens. He often supports his proposed solutions with examples of programs that have shown results or promise. An annotated bibliography presented would prove to be useful for the readers who want more information or like to explore further on the issues. -- C/CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Library Journal*, ©2006)

52. Lasswell, Harold D.
The future of political science / Harold D. Lasswell ; with a new introduction by Jay Stanley. Aldine Transaction, 2006. 256 p.
320 LAS

Originally published in 1963, this reprint introduces a new generation of political science students to the legacy of Lasswell (1902-78). Notably, he incorporated psychoanalytic thought into the field. In this lesser known work, he argues for a multi-disciplinary approach based on surveys and for independent centers of advanced studies. Jay Stanley provides a new introduction to the book. -- C/CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Book News, Inc.*, ©2006)

53. Lawless, Jennifer L.
It takes a candidate : why women don't run for office / Jennifer L.
Lawless and Richard L. Fox. Cambridge University Press, ©2005.
203 p. 320.082 LAW

Based on data from the Citizen Political Ambition Study, Lawless and Fox present new evidence and insight on central issues of political representation and democratic politics. Their study reveals that women in general are less likely than men to seek elected offices, be recruited to run for office, and are less likely to think they are qualified to run for office. Authors attempt to investigate why women are underrepresented among American officeholders. The book is thoroughly engaging and accessible in its approach. It should appeal to anyone inquisitive about patterns vital to the operation of American democracy. -- ND

PSYCHOLOGY

54. Carnegie, Dale.
How to stop worrying and start living / Dale Carnegie. Rev. ed.
Pocket Books, 2004. 298 p. 158.1 CAR

Those who would like to eliminate debilitating fear and worry from their lives and would like to embrace a worry-free future would especially find this book practical. Carnegie offers a set of practical formulas that would help them acquire new power and new inspiration to stop worry and enjoy life. All the advice in this book are based on the premise that people are responsible for their own destiny, and must personally take action in their own life. It advocates them to take action rather than wait for the government or a pill or someone else to take care of the things for him. The title is illustrated with examples drawn from research on historical figures and interviews with business leaders. Like any other Carnegie book, it is packed with lessons for a lifetime. The book is very well organized and has been written in an easygoing style. -- C

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

55. Batiza, Ann.
Bioinformatics, genomics, and proteomics : getting the big picture /
Ann Finney Batiza. Chelsea House Publishers, ©2006. 196 p.
572.8 BAT

This highly informative book provides an extremely thorough introduction to modern biological studies. It is oriented towards advanced students of the subject. This densely written textbook addresses the complexities behind the study of genomics, proteomics, and bioinformatics. It looks into the development of research and development in the field of genomics and the history of the Human Genome Project. Batiza explains how advances in the field of DNA technology have been helpful in understanding human diseases and genetic conditions, and finding solutions to them. Extensive illustrations, photos, technical drawings, and an elaborate list of Web resources enhance understanding of the contents. -- C/CH/M/ND

56. Booker, Richard.
Nanotechnology for dummies / Richard Booker and Earl Boysen.
Wiley, ©2005. 361 p. 620.5 BOO

Nanotechnology is the latest revolution in technology that studies matter at the scale of one-billionth of a meter. With its wide application in all areas of business, environment, computing, and health; the geopolitical implications are huge. The book discusses applications in areas such as scratch-proof glass, corrosion-resistant paints, stain-free clothing, glare-reducing eyeglass coatings, drug delivery systems, medical diagnostic tools, mini-portable power generators, and even longer-lasting tennis balls. The title debunks common myths about nanotechnology and explains its implications for various industries, the limitations it can overcome, and the way it can transform our lives. Written in an accessible and humorous style, this book would appeal to investors, business executives, and anyone interested in this molecule-sized technology. -- C/ND

57. Darge, J.S.
Mars : a warmer, wetter planet / Jeffrey S. Kargel. Springer, ©2004.
557 p. 523.43 KAR

This absorbing and beautifully illustrated book unfolds the mystery surrounding Mars to show us the red planet's intriguing visage. It presents a fresh view of Mars, its history, and current environment. Kargel presents an impressive array of information to argue that Mars was once a warm and wet planet, with rivers and seas covering its surface. Comparing the topography of both Earth and Mars, he explores the possibilities of transforming Mars into a new world. A large amount of technical information has been incorporated in the title. The book is full of excellent examples of imaging data from NASA missions to Mars, as well as many photos of terrestrial analogues, which would aid even the novice reader in understanding how planetary geologists go about understanding the landforms of Mars. The text is engaging and accessible and clearly written for a broad readership. The reader is bound to be swept along by the author's enthusiasm. -- M

58. Daubert, Stephen.
Threads from the web of life : stories in natural history / by Stephen Daubert ; with illustrations by Chris Daubert. Vanderbilt University Press, ©2006. 162 p. 508 DAU

Through sixteen creative nonfiction stories, Daubert illustrates the mystery and immediacy of ecological processes spanning the range from microscopic to tectonic. These science-grounded stories are excellent combinations of scientific research and literary imagination that take the readers on journeys through time and space. Some of them cover evolutionary events taking place over millions of years. The book brings to life the dynamic interplay of living, evolving creatures and the natural forces that have shaped their worlds. -- C/M/ND

SOCIOLOGY

59. Carter, Jimmy.
Our endangered values : America's moral crisis / Jimmy Carter.
Simon & Schuster, ©2005. 212 p. 306 CAR

Former president Jimmy Carter shares his personal thoughts, saturated with his religious beliefs, on the moral decline of the U.S. political sphere. After several books on spirituality and homespun values, President Carter turns his attention to the political arena. The former President draws on his religious faith and political experience to comment wisely on a wide range of "hot button" issues. Although Carter's tone is patient and explanatory, his views are bound to be newsworthy and will rekindle some old fires. He is dismayed by the influence of fundamentalism both in religion and in politics; as he observes, "Narrowly defined theological beliefs have been adopted as the rigid agenda of a political party." He further accuses the neoconservatives who guide the Bush administration of having imperialistic goals. Carter writes at length about post-9/11 human rights violations, gun control, nuclear proliferation, the death penalty, the dilution of environmental quality, and the dangers of preemptive war. He passionately encourages women to demand a greater leadership role in the church while candidly discussing his own religious beliefs and struggles with the Baptist Church. However, his most cohesive chapter is concerned with the growing gap between rich and poor, which he calls the greatest challenge facing the world in this new century. This book is an eloquent personal testament that deserves a wide readership, regardless of political affiliation. -- C/CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Library Journal*, ©2005)

60. Class matters / correspondents of the New York Times ; introduction by Bill Keller. Times Books, ©2005. 268 p. 305.513 CLA

The topography of class in America has shifted over the past twenty years, blurring the lines between upper, middle and lower classes. It is also argued that the concept of class is irrelevant in today's American society. While the 14 pieces in this volume (all originally printed as part of a New York Times series) shed light on a different aspect of class, they all agree that it remains an important facet of contemporary American culture and draw their strength by examining class less through argument than through storytelling. The reader, by following three heart attack victims through very different recoveries, by witnessing the divergent immigrant experiences of a Greek

diner owner and his Mexican line cook, by tracing the life path of an Appalachian foster child turned lawyer and a single welfare mother turned registered nurse, or by seeing the world from the perspective of the wife of a "relo" (a six-figure executive who relocates every few years to climb the corporate ladder), quickly realizes class is defined by much more than income. The collection has the power of a great documentary film: it captures the lives and ideas of its subjects in lively, articulate prose that, while grounded in statistics and research, remains engaging and readable throughout. The result is neither an attack on the rich nor a lecture to the poor, but a thoughtful consideration of class dynamics. *Class Matters* is a good read for people looking to understand class in America. -- C/CH/M/ND (Adapted from *Publishers Weekly*, ©2005)

61. Ehrenreich, Barbara.
Bait and switch : the (futile) pursuit of the American dream / Barbara Ehrenreich. Metropolitan Books, ©2005. 237 p. 650.14 EHR

Three years ago, journalist and social critic Ehrenreich wrote the best-selling *Nickel and Dimed*, exposing the dead-end world of the low-wage worker in America. Here, she tackles the problems of unemployed white-collar workers. In *Bait and Switch*, she assumes a new identity in another hidden realm of American economy – the shadowy world of the white-collar unemployed. She goes undercover, this time pretending to be a white-collar worker seeking a public relations job. She meets long-term unemployed white-collar workers as well as job seekers deeply dissatisfied with their current job or career. Her tale is instructive, sometimes humorous as the focus is on finding a job rather than actually working in one. She ends up exposing the emptiness and disingenuousness of those she consulted more than analyzing the challenges confronting her fellow job seekers. Despite her many efforts, after almost a year of job hunting, the author doesn't get a viable job. She concludes without bitterness but without much hope that what "the unemployed and anxiously employed" need is "not a winning attitude" but "courage to come together and work for change." -- CH/M/ND (Adapted from *Library Journal*, ©2005)

62. Johnson, Steven.
Everything bad is good for you : how today's popular culture is actually making us smarter / Steven Johnson. Riverhead Books, ©2006. 254 p. 306 JOH

If you are one of those worried about how much time your children spend playing video games, this book might come to you as a relief. In Johnson's opinion the children are actually learning valuable problem-solving skills, and they'd probably do better on an IQ test than their parents could at their age. Go ahead and let them watch more television, too, since even reality shows can function as "elaborately staged group psychology experiments" to stimulate rather than pacify the brain. With the same winning combination of personal revelation and friendly scientific explanation he displayed in *Mind Wide Open*, Johnson shatters the conventional wisdom about pop culture as pabulum, showing how video games, television shows and movies have become increasingly complex. Furthermore, he says, consumers are drawn specifically to those products that require the most mental engagement, from small children who can't get enough of their favorite Disney DVDs to adults who find new layers of meaning with each repeated viewing of *Seinfeld*. Johnson lays out a strong case that what we do for fun is just as educational in its way as what we study in the classroom. -- C/CH (Adapted from Publishers Weekly, ©2005)

63. Stern, Jane.
Two for the road : our love affair with American food / Jane and Michael Stern. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. 292 p. 394.12 STE

For the past 30 years, the Sterns have traveled America's back roads looking for the tenderest chicken and fried steak, the flakiest pies, and the most gelatinous congealed salads. The authors of *Roadfood* and many other books, in their new title *Two for the Road*, document their devotion to American cuisine. They tell the story of their decades-long road trip. After their days as art students at Yale, they purchased a disreputable vehicle and planned to eat their way from coast to coast. Like Hobbits, they not only had second but third and fourth breakfasts-plus lunches and dinners. Included here are tips on how to choose cheap motels and an appreciation of misprints on menus. Title would interest general readers and those interested to have a feel of the American taste. -- C/CH/M/ND (Adapted from *Library Journal*, ©2006)

64. Swanson, James L.
Manhunt : the twelve-day chase for Lincoln's killer / James L. Swanson. William Morrow, ©2006. 448 p. 364.1524 SWA

In this fast-paced, hour-by-hour account of the 12 days following Lincoln's assassination at Ford's Theatre on April 14, 1865, Swanson allows the reader to ride along with the Union cavalry and federal agents through the streets of Washington, D.C., and the wilds of Maryland and Virginia in pursuit of John Wilkes Booth, his coconspirators, and the host of rebel enablers who constituted a viable Confederate underground railroad. Swanson's eye for detail and his excellent thumbnail sketches of the figures involved bring the chronicle alive. Swanson details the conditions endured by John Wilkes Booth, while on the run and the foolish mistakes committed by him and his pursuers during the long chase until the last stand at a farm near Port Royal, Virginia, on April 26, 1865. Swanson concludes with discussions of the trial and execution of the four secondary conspirators, the subsequent squabbling over reward money, and the unfolding of the post-assassination lives of the drama's major personalities. Well-researched content and seamlessly written text of this book would be a pleasure for anyone to go through. -- C/CH/M/ND (*Adapted from Library Journal*, ©2005)

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